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May 16, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
May 12, 1960 -- After Cabinet Meeting

Others present: Secretary Herter
General Goodpaster

The President told Mr. Herter he would like to have a recess or a restriction imposed on all intelligence operations of a "provocative" nature. Mr. Herter said he would pass the word along these lines, and stated that he had already told the Air Force to cut down on "ferret" operations.


Mr. Herter said the British and French Ambassadors had asked whether the subject of the U-2 is likely to be brought up by us at the summit. Mr. Herter said he told them that the President plans to suggest that he and Khrushchev talk privately about this, in case Khrushchev brings it up. He added that both Ambassadors seemed to think this a fine idea. Mr. Herter showed the President telegrams from our Embassy in Moscow reporting student attitudes in the Universities in Moscow and Leningrad concerning the U-2. In general, the students were very relaxed about this and considered it the normal type of thing that goes on in intelligence activities. The President said he still has a major question in his mind as to whether it was not a mistake to have talked so much and so quickly as a government on this matter.

Mr. Herter recalled that the President had given de Gaulle a copy of the "think paper" on the summit to study, and that de Gaulle had been quite pleased with this. Mr. Herter said that Adenauer had also been given a copy (he was not clear as to who gave the copy to Adenauer, although it seemed to be the State Department) and that Adenauer and Von Brentano had gotten tremendously exercised over the document. Mr. Herter said he had calmed Von Brentano down during the Istanbul meeting. The President expressed considerable displeasure that a copy had been given to Adenauer, since he regarded it as a private, advisory paper.

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By J.W. Date 2-15-78


A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA

